

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. QA-239

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Goldsborough House

other McKenney House

2. Location

street and number East side of South Commerce Street not for publication

city, town Centreville MD vicinity

county Queen Anne's

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Multiple ownership (refer to county tax map)

street and number telephone

city, town state zip code

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. liber folio

city, town tax map tax parcel tax ID number

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
☐ Other: _____

6. Classification

| Category | Ownership | Current Function | Resource Count |
|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> district | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture | Contributing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> private | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape | Noncontributing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure | <input type="checkbox"/> both | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade | <input type="checkbox"/> buildings |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site | | <input type="checkbox"/> defense | <input type="checkbox"/> sites |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object | | <input type="checkbox"/> domestic | <input type="checkbox"/> structures |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> education | <input type="checkbox"/> objects |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> funerary | <input type="checkbox"/> Total |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> government | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> health care | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> religion | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> social | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> unknown | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> other: | |

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory

7. Description

Inventory No. QA-239

Condition

| | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered |

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

A description of Goldsborough House is not possible based on the limitations of available photographs. The article published in the Centreville Record-Observer in March 1959 includes a view of the house after the gable wall collapsed. From this it would appear that the house was brick, 2 ½ stories high, five bays wide and one room deep, with flush brick chimneys centered on each gable. Several large additions had been made and one Victorian bay window is visible on the second floor of the collapsed gable.

8. Significance

Inventory No. QA-239

| Period | Areas of Significance | Check and justify below | | |
|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> economics | <input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine | <input type="checkbox"/> performing arts |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> archeology | <input type="checkbox"/> education | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999 | <input type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> religion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2000- | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage | <input type="checkbox"/> law | <input type="checkbox"/> science |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> literature | <input type="checkbox"/> social history |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning | | <input type="checkbox"/> maritime history | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation | | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> other: _____ |

Specific dates

Architect/Builder

Construction dates circa 1798

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☐ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

Constructed circa 1798, the Goldsborough House was one of the largest and most substantial houses in early Centreville. In size, plan, and general form it evidently was quite similar to the Covert or Betton House (QA-161) on Liberty Street. Built in 1794, the Covert House may in fact have been constructed by the same builder.

Goldsborough House was built on a four acre lot conveyed in 1792 by Mary Nicholson to her daughter Henrietta Nicholson Bracco and her son-in-law, Dr. John Bracco.¹ In the fall of 1794, John Bracco died.² Perhaps he had already begun the house, but more likely the lot was unimproved at the time of his death. His widow remarried circa 1797-98 to Dr. Robert Goldsborough, a prominent physician in Queen Anne's County.³ In 1798, the Federal Direct Tax listed Dr. Robert Goldsborough as the owner of a lot in Centreville improved by:

1 dwelling house, brick, two stories 40x24 the house not yet fully compleat, shop 16x14

1 carriage house 16x8 with granary, 1 meat house 11x11

1 logg stable 16x16⁴

The original four acre lot was expanded by several purchases over the years, and by the time of Dr. Goldsborough's death in 1849 had grown to include approximately 18 acres between the streets now known as Railroad Avenue and Kidwell Avenue. After Dr. Goldsborough death, the house and property passed to the son, Dr. Robert Goldsborough, Jr.⁵ In 1858 Dr. Goldsborough and his wife were forced to convey the land to a Trustee and the property was sold to settle debts.⁶ In 1860 it was purchased from the Trustee, Woolhand Gibson, by William McKenney, a prominent local businessman.⁷ McKenney was in fact the son-in-law of Dr. Goldsborough, having married Eleanor Ridgely Goldsborough in 1851.⁸ By purchasing the house and land he made it possible for his wife to regain possession of the house in which she was raised. Over the years, some of the land acquired by William McKenney in 1860 was sold off for house lots and to the Queen Anne's and Kent Railroad, but the house and a large lot remained in the McKenney family until the early 1960's. In March 1959 a severe windstorm caused one corner of the house to collapse,⁹ and in 1963 it was demolished.¹⁰ The lot was subdivided and sold. Part of the front portion of the lot was deeded to the Queen Anne's County Historical Society while the remainder was sold to the County Commissioners. Wright's Chance and the public library now occupy the front lawn of Goldsborough House.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. QA-239

Emory, Frederick. Queen Anne's County, Maryland. Baltimore: Maryland Historical Society, 1950.

Hanson, George A. Old Kent: The Eastern Shore of Maryland. Baltimore: John P. Des Forges, 1876.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property _____

Acreage of historical setting _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale: _____

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared by

| | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------------|-----------|----------------|
| name/title | Orlando Ridout V, Historic Sites Surveyor | | |
| organization | Queen Anne's County Historical Society | date | April 24, 1981 |
| street & number | | telephone | |
| city or town | Centreville | state | Maryland 21617 |

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to:

Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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Goldsborough House
Continuation Sheet

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Footnotes

1. Deeds, Liber STW2, folio 258. 25 July 1792.
2. Wills, RW1, folio 112. Last Will and Testament of John Bracco, Probated 20 October 1794.
3. The exact date of this marriage is not known. See Hanson, Old Kent, p. 292. Tax assessments note Henrietta Bracco as the owner of Lots 8 and 9 South in 1797 and 1798, and Robert Goldsborough as the owner in 1799. See Centreville Tax Assessments, 1799-1860, Hall of Records. The 1798 Federal Direct Tax (Wye Hundred) lists Robert Goldsborough as the owner. Robert Goldsborough, Jr. was born in March 1800. See tombstone at Goldsborough/McKenney Farm.
4. Federal Direct Tax, Wye Hundred.
5. Administration Accounts, Hall of Records. Also refer to Centreville Tax Lists, 1820-1860, Hall of Records.
6. Deeds, Liber JP3, folio 458. 27 March 1858.
7. Deeds, Liber MB1, folio 472. 19 November 1860.
8. Marriage Records, Queen Anne's County 1817-1858, folio 323. Also see Tombstone Records, Goldsborough Mill Farm.
9. Centreville Record-Observer. March 19, 1959.
10. Centreville Record-Observer. December 12, 1963. Also see entry in Tax Assessment book for Dec. 12, 1963. QA Co. Courthouse.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Goldsborough House

AND/OR COMMON

McKenney House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

East side of South Commerce St.

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1st

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Queen Anne's

3 CLASSIFICATION**CATEGORY**

☐ DISTRICT
☐ BUILDING(S)
☐ STRUCTURE
☒ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☒ PUBLIC
☐ PRIVATE
☐ BOTH
PUBLIC ACQUISITION
☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED
☐ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
☒ YES: RESTRICTED
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION
☒ OTHER: multiple use

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Multiple ownership

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

refer to County tax map

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

QA-239

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED
☒ Site

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

A description of Goldsborough House is not possible based on the limitations of available photographs. The article published in the Centreville Record-Observer in March 1959 includes a view of the house after the gable wall collapsed. From this it would appear that the house was brick, 2 1/2 stories high, five bays wide and one room deep, with flush brick chimneys centered on each gable. Several large additions had been made and one Victorian bay window is visible on the second floor of the collapsed gable.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

| PERIOD | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION |
| 1400-1499 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE |
| 1500-1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE |
| 1600-1699 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> ART | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | | |

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Constructed circa 1798, the Goldsborough House was one of the largest and most substantial houses in early Centreville. In size, plan, and general form it evidently was quite similar to the Covert or Betton House (QA-161) on Liberty Street. Built in 1794, the Covert House may in fact have been constructed by the same builder.

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CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

QA-239

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Emory, Frederick. Queen Anne's County, Maryland.

Baltimore: Maryland Historical Society, 1950.

Hanson, George A. Old Kent: The Eastern Shore of Maryland.

Baltimore: John P. Des Forges, 1876.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Orlando Ridout V, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Queen Anne's County Historical Society

DATE

4/24/81

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Centreville

STATE

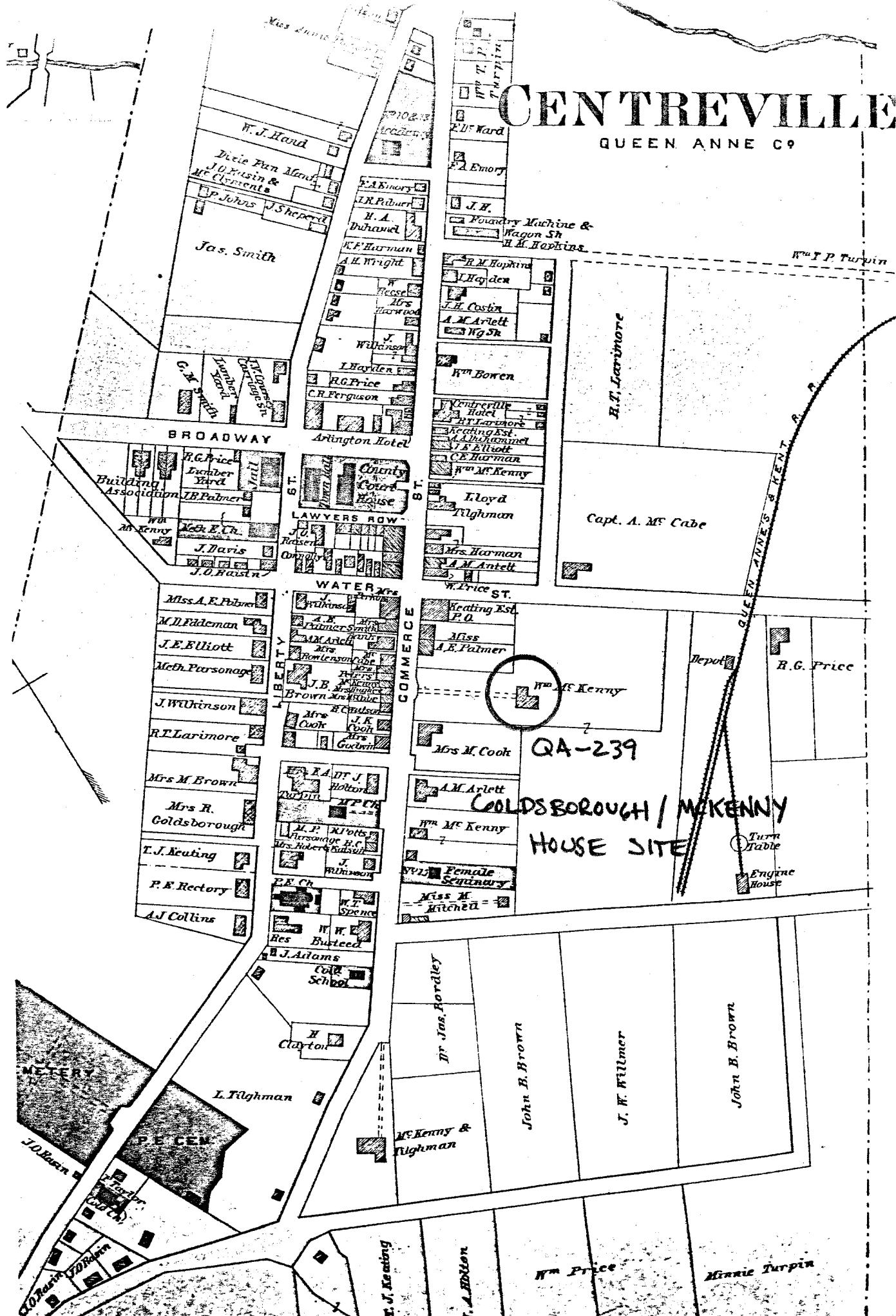
Maryland

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RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

QUEEN ANNE C9





QA-239 McKenney Mansion
South Commerce St.
Centreville, Maryland
Queen Anne's Co. Historical
Society